To illustrate a variety of sentences and how they are used, here is a brief portion of the Manchu version of *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*:

ILAN GURUN-I BITHE
three kingdom-'s book

... Hûwang G'ai ubaliya-kai besergen-ci ebu-fi,
turn over-EMPH bed-from get out-ing

hengkile-me baniha bu-he.
kowtow-ing thanks give-ed

K'an Ze hendu-me: "Weile-be elheše-ci ojorakû. Te uthai
say-ing work-ACC slacken-ing won't do now at once

yabu-ci aca-mbi."
act-ing must-s

Hûwang G'ai hendu-me: "Bithe ara-me waji-habi."
say-ing letter write-ing finish-ed has

K'an Ze bithe-be gai-fi, uthai tere dobori beye-be nimaha
letter-ACC take-ing at once that night self-ACC fish

buta-ra niyalma obu-fi, ajige weihu-de te-fi, emhun šuru-me amargi
catch-ing man make-ing small boat-in sit-ing alone row-ing north

dalin-i baru muke eyen-i dahashûn juraka. Tere dobori
shore-'s toward water current-'s obedient set out that night

šahûrun usiha abka-i jalu dekde-hebi. Ila-ci ging o-me, muke-i
cold star sky-'s fullness float-ed has third watch be-ing water-'s

ing-de isina-fi, giyang-be bedere-re cooha-i niyalma-de jafa-bu-ha.
camp-to reach-ing river-ACC patrol-ing army-'s men-by take-give-ed

K'an Ze hendu-me: "Cenghiyang-de hûdula-me alana! Dergi U
say-ing chancellor-to hurry-ing report east

Gurun-i K'an Ze-de dalda-ra amba weile bi-fi, cohome acanji-me
kingdom-'s -by hide-ing big matter be-ing especially meet-ing

ji-hebi se-me hendu!"
come-ed has say-ing say

Tere dobori Z'oo Z'oo olhon-i ing-de bi-hebi. Cooha-i
that night dry land-'s camp-in be-ed was army-'s

niyalma alana-ra jakade, Z'oo Z'oo hendu-me: "Jiyansi waka sem-e-o?"
men report-ing after say-ing spy not call-ing-?

TRANSLATION]

THE ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS

... Turning over, Hûwang G'ai got down out of bed and thanked him with a kowtow. K'an Ze said: "It won't do to postpone the task. Now I must act at once." Hûwang G'ai said: "The letter has been written."

Taking the letter, K'an Ze disguised himself as a fisherman and that very night set out in a small boat, rowing alone toward the north shore following the current. That night the cold stars floated over the entire sky. It was the third watch, and when he reached the camp on the water's edge, he was taken by soldiers patrolling the river.

K'an Ze said: "Report quickly to the chancellor! Say that K'an Ze of the kingdom of Eastern U has come with an important secret matter especially to meet with him!"

That night Z'oo Z'oo was in his camp on the land. When the soldiers came to him with the report, Z'oo Z'oo said: "Is it not a spy?"

S. ROBERT RAMSEY

The Languages of China

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